

## Remember:

We are talking about God's commandments!

God's Commandments are like signposts to help us live the way that God really wants us to! They are not horrible rules that God gave us to make life difficult! They will help us if we let them!

## Commandment 2

*Do not make any idols. Do not make a statue or a picture of anything in the sky or of anything on the earth or of anything in the water.*

*Do not worship or bow down to any idol of any kind. Why? Because I the Lord am your God. No one or nothing else is! And I hate my special people worshipping other so-called gods.*

These are God's commandments.

Being a Christian is not just about obeying commandments. It is about being a friend with God. The commandments help us stay friends with God.

If we invent our own God, it will not be a proper God. We try to make God fit in with what we want, rather than what He wants. We must not choose our God. God chose us, and He really wants us to worship Him.

Worshipping an idol is where ANYTHING takes the place of God in the middle of our lives.

An idol is what you live for. If you are always thinking about something, talking about something, dreaming about something, it is an idol.

## Action 1:

- Get people to suggest what can come before God. We talked a bit about this last time as well.
- Write them on the bits of paper.

Idols do not make demands on us. God makes demands on us.

If we worship idols, they destroy us. They will never give us what we want or what they promise!

Idols stop us learning to love God.

## Psalm 115: 3-8 (adapted!)

For our God is in heaven.

Our God does whatever He wants

Idols are only statues made of silver and gold. They are not living and breathing and they

will not last.

People made them; not God.

Idols have mouths but they cannot talk. They cannot encourage you. If you are in trouble they are useless.

They may have eyes but they cannot see! They cannot see what is really going on in your life.

They may have ears, but they cannot hear when you pray to them. They cannot hear when you are lonely frightened and want their help.

They cannot smell with their noses

They cannot feel with their hands

They cannot walk or talk either. Idols are useless!

Idols are not good. God is God NOT a pet! He is GOD!!

## How do I know if it is an idol?

Try answering these questions:

- xxx makes me feel that life is worth living
- xxx controls the things I do
- xxx is the most important thing in my life
- When I think about xxx it comforts me
- I read about xxx, talk about xxx and make friends with other people who like xxx
- I want more of xxx

## Action 2

On these bits of paper we have written all sorts of things that could be idols.

Last time we burned them.

We are going to burn them as a way of helping us to decide not to put them first.

## Pray together:

“Dear God, thank you that you are the ONLY god. We are sorry for the times we have worshipped idols. We are sorry for the times we have put **things** in the middle of our lives. We are sorry for the times we have not put YOU in the middle of our lives. Please help us to get rid of the idols in our lives, and put you back in the middle of our lives. Amen.